ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT: Before we begin regular work regarding the voting of grants, I have to announce to the House the result of the election which took place on Friday evening.

For the Standing Finance Committee
Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan, and
Mr. K. C. Karunakaran

top the list. Therefore both of them will be declared elected to the Standing Finance Committee from this House.

And, as regards the Public Accounts Committee,
Mr. K. C. Abraham and
Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai

top the list. I therefore declare these two gentlemen duly elected to the Public Accounts Committee.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.—(*contd*)

DEMAND IX—FORESTS.—(*contd.*)

Motion No. 550.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion;

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,35,000 for Conservancy and Works by Re. 1.

Sir, my object is to discuss the desirability of laying open some land within reserve forests for registry. Sir, Travancore has a third of its area under reserved forests, the total area of our forests being 2,397 sq. miles. It is therefore clear that there will be a large area within these reserved forests fit for paddy cultivation. It is very desirable to throw open as much suitable lands as possible out of these reserves for cultivation. Travancore does not now grow all the paddy that is required for home consumption, and a large quantity of paddy is being imported into the country every year. It is therefore now absolutely necessary that more area is thrown open for paddy cultivation. I know the Conservator will say that the land still available within the reserves is grassy land and not suited for paddy cultivation. But, the people are prepared to take the risk. Then, why not throw open more land for cultivation? The Conservator may argue that, if timber-clad hills are destroyed, it will adversely affect our monsoon and weather conditions. There may be some truth in that statement, Sir. But, considering the fact that nearly one-third of our total area is included in the reserves, I daresay there is possibility of throwing open more land for cultivation without prejudice to our monsoon or to the interests of our forest produce. It is certainly the duty of the Government, any way, to investigate the question. It is not quite safe, in this matter especially, to give too much weight to the words of the Conservator. His is certainly not the last word on the subject. I would

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therefore suggest the appointment of a Committee to go into the question thoroughly and to see whether there is not land still available within our reserves fit for paddy cultivation.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Is the member in a position to specify the localities where he hopes to have suitable land within the reserves ?

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*) : It is for that that I want a committee to be appointed. I am sorry I am not now in a position to specify any locality.

MR R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, the question of disafforestation of areas, within reserves, fit for paddy cultivation is not a new one. It has come up before the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly several times. Government have carefully looked into this question. They first passed a G. O. on the matter, No. 3142 dated the 1st July 1907, and subsequently also appointed committees in several taluks to find out whether there were such suitable lands within the reserves in such taluks. Most of these swampy areas within the forests were then inspected ; and a report was submitted to Government. About 3,000 acres have actually been thrown open as a result of such investigation and report. I do not think there is any more land within our reserves fit for paddy cultivation. There may be small bits here and there which are not accessible at all. The throwing open of such bits will be advantageous neither to the people nor to the Government. It will only work against the conservancy of our forests, without at the same time being of any use for increasing the output of paddy. Mr. Nilakanta Pillai was saying, Sir, that about a third of our total area is reserve. And, on that fact, he presumes that there must be extensive lands within our reserves fit for paddy cultivation. So far as our knowledge goes, Sir, there are no more areas worthy of being thrown open for registry. Our reserves comprise mostly the steep western slopes of the Western Ghats ; and therefore there is very little land within our reserves fit for paddy cultivation.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*) : Has the Conservator personally inspected the various areas in the reserves ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I have put in nearly twenty-six years of service in the Travancore Forest Department ; and I know what I am speaking.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Is the Conservator aware of suitable areas within the Palode reserve ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There may be small bits here and there. That is all.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Has the Conservator inspected the Palode Reserve ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I inform the member that there are more than three thousand *paras* of paddy land, land fit for paddy cultivation, within that reserve ?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not know of such land, Sir; probably, that is the member's opinion of the bits of swamps within the reserve.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is the member prepared to accompany me so that I can satisfy him of the correctness of my statement?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is no need for me to accompany him, Sir; it is enough if he specifies the locality; I shall again go and see for myself.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is he prepared at least to depute one of his officers to accompany me?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is no necessity, Sir; I am myself prepared—I have already stated—to inspect the locality if only the member would specify it.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): May I know the area disafforested and thrown open for registry in 1108?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have no information, Sir.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): Have they disafforested any area, at least one acre, in 1108?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Some lands have already been surveyed; and, in some cases, the necessary notification has already been published. After disafforestation, the lands will be handed over to the Revenue Department for registry.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): From the Administration Report for 1108, it is seen that the area of reserved forests at the beginning of the year was 2,396 sq. miles and 371 acres and at the close of the year it was 2,397 sq. miles and 39 acres. May I know how the increase has happened?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is due to adjustment of the areas of reserved forests and reserved lands when resurveyed.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know whether there are 'reserved lands'?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know whether the increase in the area of forests is made by addition to the forest from reserved lands?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No, not at all. Reserved lands will be available for registry later on.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know whether there are areas in the reserved forests where there are no royal trees?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): By 'reserved' I do not mean that all these forests contain royal trees.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether the Department has received applications for disafforestation of any particular tract in reserved forests last year?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Some applications have been received for registry inside the forest and Government replied that, so long as such lands were situated inside the reserve, they may not be registered.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether any such application pointed out any cultivable land?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There was one application from Mr. S. J. Nair showing that cultivable land was available.

PRESIDENT: From whom, did you say?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): From Mr. S. J. Nair.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Conservator has inspected the land that has been pointed out by Mr. S. J. Nair?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I got a report from the Divisional Forest Officer and he inspected and my information is based on his report.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): My question is whether the Conservator has inspected that land or not.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have not inspected myself, but I know where the locality is

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Divisional Forest Officer, who inspected the place, is of opinion that it could be registered? Has he made any report that it could be registered?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): He has made a report and his report is, it is not fit to be registered.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the member knows where the Manjappara reserve is?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, I know.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know in what *Pakuthi* it is located?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I do not know exactly in what *pakuthi* it is located. But it is situated on the side of the branch road from Vamanapuram.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Conservator is able to tell in which taluk it is situated?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*)? Whether it is in Nedumangad or Chirayinkil, I know exactly the locality where it is.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there was a request from the Nedumangad public that that may be registered?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Not that I know of. Last year there was a representation made in the State Council by Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai and in that connection I have inspected the locality.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the member got a copy of the address given to Dewan Mr. Austin by the people of Nedumangad?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I do not remember.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether all the lands surrounding that reserve are registered lands?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : They are registered.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether that land fit for registry may be registered in case it is applied for in order to open a colony for the poor people in the Nedumangad taluk ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : That is a matter of opinion, Sir. Whether the Manjappara reserve will materially benefit the poor people, if registered, is a matter of opinion. It is in the interest of the neighbouring population that it has been reserved.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Government or the Conservator has received any application from the people of the neighbouring place of the reserve for the registry ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I have already replied to that question.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Conservator has recommended the disafforestation of that reserve?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I have not recommended.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know why the Conservator has not recommended its disafforestation for registry?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : Because the Conservator did not think that it is a place which could be disafforested in the interest of the neighbouring population.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know whether the applications of the poor people are under consideration now and whether those come under applications from poor people?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : No.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether swampy areas in Manjappara reserve, though not fit for paddy cultivation, are eminently fit for tapioca cultivation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : During my inspection I made a close study. I saw the land cultivated with tapioca, but the place was so poor because the area was a laterite hill and all the lands available have already been registered.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) May I know whether swampy areas are not fit for tapioca cultivation ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : They are not.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Is the member in a position to give out the nature of the soil in Manjappara reserve ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : I have already answered that it is a laterite hill.

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MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): നെടുമങ്ങാട്ട താലൂക്കിൽ വേട്ടമ്പള്ളി എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു അധഃകൃതക്കു മൽമ്പെറിച്ചെടി കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നതിനു് ഒഴിച്ചിട്ടിരുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തെ റെവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അതു റിസർവിൽ ചേർന്നസ്ഥലമല്ല. മറുകായ്ങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി റെവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനോടു ചോദിച്ചാൽ അറിയാം.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): മുൻപറഞ്ഞ സ്ഥലത്തിനും മിസ്റ്റർ. എസ്. ജെ. നായർക്കും തമ്മിൽ വല്ലബന്ധവുമുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അതിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): ആ സ്ഥലം ഇപ്പോൾ അതുടെ കൈവശത്തിലിരിക്കുന്നു എന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): അധഃകൃതക്കു ഒരു കോളനി സ്ഥാപിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടയാവശ്യത്തിനാണെന്നും പറഞ്ഞ് ആ സ്ഥലം മി: എസ്. ജെ. നായർ റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും വാങ്ങിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയാമോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH (*Nominated*): എത്ര ആയിരം രൂപായ്ക്കു് ആ സ്ഥലവും കെട്ടിടവുംകൂടി മിസ്റ്റർ എസ്. ജെ. നായർ വാങ്ങിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നറിയാമോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know whether Government have any objection in telling us the names of the applicants for registry of the lands included in the reserve?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There are many applications and it may not be possible for me to remember all; but I remember a particular plot known as Meeranvettiyakarikakam applied for by Mr. S. J. Nair. He came and saw me and there was the interpellation also. That is why I am in a position to remember his application.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): Was it after the receipt of the interpellation that Mr. S. J. Nair came and saw you?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No. It was long before he put that interpellation.

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PRESIDENT: Is Mr. Nilakanta Pillai going to reply?

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Sir, I wish Government would be pleased to enquire into the matter and make a thorough investigation as to the advisability of throwing open certain lands within the reserve forests. If the Conservator of Forests assures me and this House that he will as far as possible do the needful in the matter, I will withdraw the motion. But as the Conservator did not say anything by way of assurance in regard to the laying open of lands in the reserve forests, I must hear the Conservator.

PRESIDENT: Can the Conservator of Forests pour oil on the troubled waters?

MR R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, disafforestation has been the policy of Government for several years past. Wherever the necessity has been felt, we have been disafforesting the forest. For example, in the Muvattupuzha taluk. after the Neriamangalam road was opened, we have disafforested nearly 3,000 acres, and an extensive area of nearly 1,000 acres for paddy cultivation has been made available. Likewise, when the western road was opened, about 3,000 acres were disafforested. In such case it is a matter of expediency and necessity. We cannot make an off-hand promise by the rule of thumb. If I calculate the total area disafforested so far, it will come to 10,000 acres or even more.

PRESIDENT: So I understand the Conservator of Forests to mean that, as in the past so in the future, Government will be glad to investigate every case wherever disafforestation is both necessary and practicable and they will follow the same policy in future. Is that your idea?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes, Sir.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Then, Sir, I beg leave to withdraw.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion Nos. 551 to 553.

PRESIDENT: There are a few motions immediately below this, which, I fear, should be ruled out on the ground of irrelevancy. For motion No. 551, there is no purpose stated. No. 552 is under Personal Assistant to discuss the impotency of maintaining Game Warden. I think you would appear more potent to give the allotment. At least be potent in this, we will wait until we come to the Game Warden. I think we have got different cuts to be moved on this very same item. I think they are 552, 557 and so on.

Well then, the next one is by Mr. S. J. Nair. It is again the same Personal Assistant to discuss the need for disafforestation and registry of a belt of land on both sides of the T. S. Road beyond the 24th mile and also that of the wet lands that lie inside and adjacent to the reserve. It is a very comprehensive motion which, I think, cannot, by any stretch of imagination or by any misapplication of the rule of elevancy, come under Pers al Assistant.

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The following motions were not moved :—

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

551. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,137 for Personal Assistant to the Conservator by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

552. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,137 for Personal Assistant to the Conservator by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :

553. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,137 for Personal Assistant to the Conservator by Re. 1.

Motions Nos. 554 to 590.

The following motions lapsed on account of time-limit :—

MR. G. NILAKANTAN :

554. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11,754 for Head clerks, etc., by Re. 1.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :

555. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,536 for Duffadar etc., by Rs. 2.

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF :

556. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,261 for establishment by Re. 1.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN :

557. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,261 for establishment by Rs. 100.

MR EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON :

558. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

559. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN :

560. To reduce the allotment of Rs 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE :

561. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI :

562. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

563. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :

564. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,538 for Direction by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

565. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,538 for Direction by Re. 1.

MR. A S. DAMODARAN ASAN :

566. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,538 for Direction by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :

567. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,538 for Direction by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :

568. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,538 for Direction by Rs. 5.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE :

569. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,760 for local allowances to Forest Guards by Rs. 5.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI :

570. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,496 for peons by Re. 1.

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MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :
571. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,496 for peons by Rs. 2.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :
572. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,730 for the deputation of 2 students for training in the Coimbatore Forest College.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER :
573. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,730 for the deputation of 2 students for training in the Coimbatore Forest College.

MR. V. T. CHACKO :
574. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,730 for the deputation of 2 students for training in the Coimbatore Forest College.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN :
575. To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,350 for the deputation of an officer for collecting notes on hill tribes and the different low country castes.

MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI :
576. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,31.889 for Divisional Forest Establishment by Rs. 2,350.

MR. M. N. NAIR :
577. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,56,027 for Establishment by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :
578. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,56,027 for Establishment by Rs. 5.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON :
579. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,56,027 for Establishment by Rs. 3,600.

MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI :
580. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,64,427 for Establishment by Re. 1.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN
581. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,800 for Game Warden.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
582. To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,800 for Game Warden.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI ;
583. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,911 for Protection of Games by Re. 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :
584. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,911 for Protection of Games.

MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI :
585. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,911 for Protection of Games.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON :
586. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,911 for Protection of Games.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :
587. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,911 for Protection of Games.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
588. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,911 for Protection of Games.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE :
589. To omit the allotment of Rs. 6,911 for Protection of Games.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :
590. To reduce the total allotment of Rs 8,06,338 under Demand IX by Re. 1.

PRESIDENT : The time allotted for this Demand has expired. Therefore I put Demand IX—Forests, for Rs. 7,97,938 minus Re. 1 to the vote of the House.

The Demand was passed and the grant made.

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